

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path, wherein the align roller is positioned
and in direct contact with
below the medium and is driven to transport the medium in the path; and

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a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller.

3. (Previously Presented) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction;

a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.

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4. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim ³2, wherein the align rollers have a non-circular cross section for feeding the medium.

5. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 3, wherein the feed assistance member is aligned in the vertical direction with respect to medium movement.

6. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the feed assistance member further comprises:
two brackets including open grooves, wherein the shaft is disposed in the grooves of the bracket.

7. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the total weight of the feed assistance roller is applied onto the medium.

8. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 6, wherein the feed assistance member further comprises a spring for urging the feed assistance roller onto the medium.

9. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 6, wherein the medium is paper.

10. (Currently Amended) A medium processing device including a medium feeding apparatus to feed the medium through a feed path in the processing device, wherein the medium feeding apparatus comprises:

and in direct contact with
at least one align roller to align a medium in a path, wherein the align roller is positioned below the medium and is driven to transport the medium in the path; and

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a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller.

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(continued)
11. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the processing device comprises a printer and the medium comprises paper.

12. (Previously Presented) A medium processing device including a medium feeding apparatus to feed the medium through a feed path in the processing device, wherein the medium feeding apparatus comprises:

at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction;

a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction;

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.

13. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the align rollers have a non-circular cross section for feeding the medium.

14. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 12, wherein the feed assistance member is aligned in the vertical direction with respect to medium movement.

15. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the feed assistance member further comprises
two brackets including open grooves, wherein the shaft is disposed in the grooves of the bracket.

16. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the total weight of the feed assistance roller is applied onto the medium.

17. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 15, wherein the medium feeding apparatus further comprises a spring for urging the feed assistance roller onto the medium.

18. (Currently Amended) A feed assistance apparatus for feeding a medium in a medium processing apparatus, comprising:

at least one align roller for feeding the medium, wherein the align roller is positioned and in direct contact with below the medium and is driven to transport the medium in the path;

a member portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller;

wherein the member portion is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller.

19. (Previously Presented)) A feed assistance apparatus for feeding a medium in a medium processing apparatus, comprising:

at least one align roller for feeding the medium;

a member portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller;

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(continued)

wherein the member portion is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the member portion is non-rotatable.

20. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a shaft portion supported in a bracket and disposed through said member portion, wherein the member portion rotates around said shaft portion so as to move by a force from said medium, wherein the shaft portion is not rotably connected to the align roller.

21. (Previously Presented) A feed assistance apparatus for feeding a medium in a medium processing apparatus, comprising:

at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction;
a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction;
a member portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller; and

wherein the member portion is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the member portion is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.

22. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim ²¹18, wherein the align rollers have a non-circular cross section for feeding the medium.

23. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, wherein the member portion is aligned in the vertical direction with respect to medium movement.

24. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, wherein the medium is paper.

25. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, wherein the member portion does not contact any align roller when the medium is not contacting the member portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 21, wherein the at least one vertical align roller comprises two vertical align rollers, and wherein the feed assistance roller is further mounted between the two vertical align rollers.

27. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the feed assistance roller does not contact any align roller when the medium is not positioned in the path.

28. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 3, wherein the at least one vertical align roller comprises two vertical align rollers, and wherein the feed assistance roller is further mounted between the two vertical align rollers.

29. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, wherein the member portion does not contact any align roller when the medium is not positioned in the path.

30. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the feed assistance roller does not contact any align roller when the medium is not positioned in the path.

31. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 12, wherein the at least one vertical align roller comprises two vertical align rollers, and wherein the feed assistance roller is further mounted between the two vertical align rollers.

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(continued)

32. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the align roller aligns the medium in a substantially horizontal path, and wherein the feed assistance member and align rollers contact the medium while the medium is moving in the substantially horizontal path.

33. (Previously Presented) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the feed assistance member rotates and applies pressure to the medium in response to contacting the medium being moved by the align roller.

34. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the align roller aligns the medium in a substantially horizontal path, and wherein the feed assistance member and align rollers contact the medium while the medium is moving in the substantially horizontal path.

35. (Previously Presented) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the feed assistance member rotates and applies pressure to the medium in response to contacting the medium being moved by the align roller.

36. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, wherein the align roller aligns the medium in a substantially horizontal path, and wherein the feed assistance member and align rollers contact the medium while the medium is moving in the substantially horizontal path.

37. (Previously Presented) The feed assistance apparatus of claim 18, wherein the feed assistance member rotates and applies pressure to the medium in response to contacting the medium being moved by the align roller.

38. (Previously Presented) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the member portion is non-rotatable.

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(concluded)